Amendments to the Claims

Listing of Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

1. (Withdrawn) An isolated polypeptide selected from the group consisting of:

a) a polypeptide comprising an amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 4,

b) a polypeptide encoding an allelic or recombinant variant of the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 4, wherein said variant

iii) has an insertion of deletion of 1-5 amino acids as compared with SEQ ID NO: 4; and/or

ii) has one or more amino acid substitutions as compared with SEQ ID NO: 4, and has the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 4 at amino acids 1, 4, 6, 7, 10, 15, 19, 31-32, 35, 38, 41, 48, 52, 54, 57-58, 60-61, 64, 71, 75-78, 80, 82-84 and 90,

iii) and further wherein the variant has chemokine activity,

c) a biologically active fragment of a polypeptide having an amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 4, wherein said fragment has chemokine activity, and

d) an immunogenically active fragment of a polypeptide having an amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 4, wherein said immunogenically active fragment is capable of generating an antibody that specifically binds to the peptide of SEQ. ID NO: 4.

2. (Withdrawn) An isolated polypeptide of claim 1, having the sequence of SEQ ID NO: 4.

3. (Currently Amended) An isolated polynucleotide encoding a polypeptide selected from the group consisting of:

a) a polypeptide **consisting of the** ~~consisting essentially of an~~ amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 4,

b) a polypeptide variant of the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 4, wherein the variant shares at least ~~90~~ **97%** sequence identity with SEQ ID NO: 4**, and the variant** has chemokine activity,

c) a biologically active fragment of a polypeptide **that consists** ~~consisting~~ essentially of ~~[[an]]~~ **the** amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 4, wherein said fragment has chemokine activity, and

d) an immunogenic fragment of a polypeptide **that consists** ~~consisting~~ essentially of ~~[[an]]~~ **the** amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 4, **and** wherein the immunogenic fragment **is at least 5 amino acids in length and** is capable of generating an antibody that specifically binds to the peptide of SEQ. ID NO: 4, and the immunogenic fragment possesses biological activity.

4. (Currently Amended) An isolated polynucleotide encoding ~~[[a]]~~ **the** polypeptide of SEQ ID NO: 4.

5. (Previously Amended) An isolated polynucleotide of claim 4, wherein said polynucleotide consists of the sequence of SEQ ID NO: 3.

6. (Original) A recombinant polynucleotide comprising a promoter sequence operably linked to a polynucleotide of claim 3.

7. (Original) A cell transformed with a recombinant polynucleotide of claim 6.

8. (Original) A transgenic organism comprising a recombinant polynucleotide of claim 6.

9. (Currently Amended) A method for producing a polypeptide ~~of claim 1~~ **selected from the group consisting of:**

a) a polypeptide consisting of the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 4,

b) a polypeptide variant of the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 4, wherein the variant shares at least 97% sequence identity with SEQ ID NO: 4 has chemokine activity,

c) a biologically active fragment of a polypeptide that consists essentially of the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 4, wherein said fragment has chemokine activity, and

d) an immunogenic fragment of a polypeptide that consists essentially of the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 4, wherein the immunogenic fragment is at least 5 amino acids in length and is capable of generating an antibody that specifically binds to the peptide of SEQ. ID NO: 4, and the immunogenic fragment possesses biological activity,

the method comprising:

a) culturing a cell under conditions suitable for expression of the polypeptide, wherein said cell is transformed with a recombinant polynucleotide, and said recombinant polynucleotide comprises a promoter sequence operably linked to a polynucleotide encoding the polypeptide of claim 1, and

b) recovering the polypeptide so expressed.

10. (Currently Amended) A method of claim 9, wherein the polypeptide ~~comprises~~ **consists of** the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 4.

11. (Withdrawn) An isolated antibody which specifically binds to a polypeptide of claim 1.

12. (Currently Amended) An isolated polynucleotide comprising a sequence selected from the group consisting of:

a) a polynucleotide ~~comprising a~~ **consisting of the** polynucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO: 3,

b) a polynucleotide sequence variant of SEQ ID NO: 3, wherein said variant encodes an amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 4,

~~[[c]]~~ **c)** a polynucleotide having a sequence fully complementary along its length to ~~[[a]]~~ **the** polynucleotide of a),

~~[[d]]~~ **d)**a polynucleotide having a sequence fully complementary along its length to ~~[[a]]~~ **the** polynucleotide of b) and

~~[[e]]~~ **e)** an RNA equivalent of a)-d).

13. (Previously Amended) An isolated polynucleotide comprising at least 60 contiguous nucleotides of a polynucleotide of SEQ ID NO: 3.

14. (Withdrawn) A method for detecting a target polynucleotide in a sample, said target polynucleotide having a sequence of a polynucleotide of claim 12, the method comprising:

a) hybridizing the sample with a probe comprising at least 20 contiguous nucleotides comprising a sequence complementary to said target polynucleotide in the sample, and which probe specifically hybridizes to said target polynucleotide, under conditions whereby a hybridization complex is formed between said probe and said target polynucleotide or fragments thereof, and

b) detecting the presence or absence of said hybridization complex, and, optionally if present, the amount thereof.

15. (Withdrawn) A method of claim 14, wherein the probe comprises at least 60 contiguous nucleotides.

16. (Withdrawn) A method for detecting a target polynucleotide in a sample, said target polynucleotide having a sequence of a polynucleotide of claim 12, the method comprising:

a) amplifying said target polynucleotide or fragment thereof using polymerase chain reaction amplification, and

b) detecting the presence or absence of said amplified target polynucleotide or fragment thereof, and, optionally, if present, the amount thereof.

17. (Withdrawn) A composition comprising a polypeptide of claim 1 and a pharmaceutically acceptable excipient.

18. (Withdrawn) A composition of claim 17, wherein the polypeptide has the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 4.

19. (Canceled)

20. (Withdrawn) A method for screening a compound for effectiveness as an agonist of a polypeptide of claim 1, the method comprising:

a) exposing a sample comprising a polypeptide of claim 1 to a compound, and

b) detecting agonist activity in the sample.

21.-22. (Canceled)

23. (Withdrawn) A method for screening a compound for effectiveness as an antagonist of a polypeptide of claim 1, the method comprising:

a) exposing a sample comprising a polypeptide of claim 1 to a compound, and

b) detecting antagonist activity in the sample.

24.-59. (Canceled)

60. (Canceled)

61. (Canceled)

62. (Currently Amended) An isolated polynucleotide sequence encoding a polypeptide that comprises an amino acid sequence having at least ~~90%~~ **97%** sequence identity to the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 4 and possesses chemokine activity.

63. (Previously Presented) The isolated polynucleotide of claim 62, wherein the polynucleotide encodes a polypeptide consisting essentially of SEQ ID NO: 4.

64. (Previously Presented) The isolated polynucleotide of claim 62, wherein the polynucleotide encodes a polypeptide having one or more conservative amino acid substitutions.

65. (Currently Amended) The isolated polynucleotide of claim 62, wherein the polynucleotide encodes a polypeptide that consists essentially of **SEQ ID NO: 4 having** an insertion or deletion **consisting essentially** of about 1 to 5 amino acids ~~compared with SEQ ID NO: 4~~.

66. (Currently Amended) An isolated polynucleotide sequence encoding a polypeptide variant **of SEQ ID NO: 4**, wherein the polypeptide variant has of one or more conservative amino acid ~~substitution~~ **substitutions** and possesses chemokine activity.